

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ITP/EWT:MTLORIMER:ERS

APPROVED BY EB/ITP/EWT:MTLORIMER

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R 301949Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO WARSAW MOSCOW
FROM GENEVA JUN 6

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 4273

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT ETRD EEWT PL

SUBJ: POLISH TRADE REGIME AND EAST EUROPEAN VIEWS ON INTERNA-
TIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. POLISH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR (JODKO) INFORMED US TODAY THAT IT NOW HIGHLY LIKELY POLAND WILL INTRODUCE CUSTOMS TARIFF BY END OF THIS YEAR. HE SAID HE WANTED US TO HAVE ADVANCE NOTICE AND TO ASK WHETHER WE HAD ANY POSITION ON MATTER. HE SAID SUBJECT LIKELY TO COME UP AT NEXT MEETING OF GATT WORKING PARTY OF POLISH ACCES- SION, WHICH HE NOW EXPECTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN OCTOBER. HE SAID POLAND CONSIDERS TARIFF WOULD BE USEFULECONOMIC INSTRUMENT AND FROM INTERNATIONAL POINT OF VIEW WOULD PROVIDE POSSIBILITY POLAND GIVING RECIPROCITY IN MTN AND REPLACING CURRENT GATT IMPORT COM- MITMENTS WITH TARIFF CONCESSIONS. WE STATED WE WOULD REPORT IN- FORMATION TO WASHINGTON AND REQUEST REACTION TO THIS DEVELOPMENT. WE ASKED JODKO WHETHER TARIFF WOULD DISCRIMINATE IN FAVOR OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES TO WHICH HE HAVE FUZZY REPLY SUGGESTING POLAND MIGHT HAVE TO DO THIS EVEN IF IT DIDN'T WANT TO. HE STATED HOW- EVER QUESTION STILL OPEN. WE ASKED ABOUT LIKELY PROFILE OF TAR-
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IFFS TO WHICH HE RESPONDED THAT THERE WOULD BE GENERAL TENDENCY

TO HAVE HIGHER RATES ON MORE HIGHLY PROCESSED PRODUCTS.

2. CONCERNING NEXT MEETING OF GATT WORKING PARTY ON POLISH ACCESS

ON, HE SEEMS ANTICIPATE ROUTINE RE-RUN OF PAST MEETINGS WITH POLAND REPEATING ITS STANDARD PLEA FOR ELIMINATION OF EUROPEAN DISCRIMINATORY QRS BUT WITHOUT ANY REAL RESULTS. JODKO DID NOT EVEN BOTHER TO ASK THAT WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT POLISH CASE ON THIS AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST.

3. DURING COURSE OF DISCN HE ASKED OUR VIEWS ABOUT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ON ENERGY AND COMMODITIES AND RECENT UN EXPERTS' REPORT ON REFORMING ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE UN. HE NOTED MANY KEY TOPICS BEING CONSIDERED OUTSIDE NORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND INDICATED CONCERN OF EASTERN COUNTRIES TO BE INVOLVED. IN VIEW OF THIS HE INDICATED BASIC SYMPATHY OF EASTERN COUNTRIES WITH MAKING ECONOMIC SIDE OF UN MORE EFFECTIVE, BUT RECOGNIZED THAT UN DEBATES NOW TAKEN UP ESSENTIALLY WITH LDC DEMANDS AND THAT UNLESS THIS BASIC SITUATION CHANGED STRUCTURAL REFORM WOULD NOT MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE. IN RESPONSE HIS QUERY RE U.S. ATTITU

E TO "GARDNER REPORT", WE SAID USG WAS STUDYING. WE EXPECTED ONE OF OUR MAJOR CONCERNS WOULD BE PROTECTING AUTONOMY OF GATT. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT CAN FURNISH ON US VIEWS ON GARDNER REPORT. CONCERNING ECE, HE CONSIDERED THAT IT WAS DOING GOOD TECHNICAL WORK BUT DID NOT SEEM TO CONSIDER IT COULD BE FORUM FOR MORE FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING BOTH EAST AND WEST. RE GATT, HE CONSIDERED MTN NEGOTIATIONS TOO TECHNICAL AND SLOW MOVING TO ATTRACT MUCH ATTENTION FROM POLICY OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, HE CONSIDERED LONG'S PROPOSED GATT MANAGEMENT GROUP MIGHT PROVIDE USEFUL FORUM FOR KIND OF ECONOMIC POLICY DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING EASTERN AND WESTERN COUNTRIES THAT HE FAVORED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN MANY CASES EASTERN ROLE IN WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS MINIMAL BUT ARGUED ON OTHER HAND THAT SUCH INVOLVEMENT GROWING. IN POLAND'S CASE, OVER 50 PERCENT OF ITS TRADE NOW WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES.

COMMENT. WE ASSUME WASHINGTON IS BEARING IN MIND BASIC POLITICAL ADVANTAGES TO US OF SOMEHOW INVOLVING AT LEAST SOME EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN CURRENT ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS ON SUCH TOPICS AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENERGY AND COMMODITIES TO EXTENT COMPATIBLE WITH ACHIEVEMENT OUR NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES. DALE
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, ECONOMIC TRENDS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE154011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MTLORIMER:ERS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750227-0804
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975062/aaaaabvn.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLISH TRADE REGIME AND EAST EUROPEAN VIEWS ON INTERNA- TIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, PL, GATT
To: EC BRUSSELS BUCHAREST
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006